

St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute
Fall 2021

Class Day & Time: Monday, 6:00-8:30pm

Course Name & Number: PT601 Foundations of Christian Ministry

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Jason Poling

Course Description: A survey of the biblical, theological and spiritual foundations of ministry, examining expressions of lay and ordained ministry in various Christian traditions.

Course Requirements:

- **Reading:** Students should expect to read at most 1000 pages of required reading, and should come prepared to discuss readings in class.
- **Writing:** Three 2-3 page reflection papers (15%) and one 15-20 page final paper (40%)
- **Other:** In-class presentation and response (25%), class participation (20%)

Required Texts:

A study edition of the Bible (NRSV, NABRE, NASB, NET, NIV, ESV or CSB).

Gregory the Great, *The Book of Pastoral Rule* (any edition is fine). 978-0881413182 (other translations are available for free online, but they will feel a bit dated)

Martin, Nicole M. *Made to Lead: Empowering Women for Ministry*. St. Louis: CBP, 2016. 978-0-827223-67-7

McBrien, Richard P. *Ministry: A Theological, Pastoral Handbook*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1987. 0-06-065324-8

Nouwen, Henri. *The Living Reminder*. New York: Seabury, 1977. 0-8164-1219-7

Peterson, Eugene H. *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. 978-0-8028-0265-1

One of the following three books:

Daniel, Lillian, and Copenhaver, Martin B. *This Odd and Wondrous Calling: The Public and Private Lives of Two Ministers*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009. 978-0-8028-6475-8

Sanders, J. Oswald. *Spiritual Leadership*. Chicago: Moody, 1994 [1967]. 0-8024-6799-7

Thomas, Walter S. *Hanging On by a Thread*. Pittsburgh: Church Online, 2017. 9781940786452

Other assigned readings will be distributed via Canvas, either as PDFs or as links.

MAT Degree Outcome Addressed by This Course: Integrate ecumenical understanding and respect in articulating one's own faith identity and engaging with others.

MACM Degree Outcome(s) Addressed by This Course: Demonstrate a firm understanding of the Christian Scripture and pertinent Church Tradition through the ability to apply that understanding in analyzing and responding to pastoral / ministry encounters; Demonstrate evidence of being able to work collegially with persons of other Christian ecclesial traditions.